

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 27, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. PALACE HOTEL, Blue Canyon, Between San Francisco and Denver. Nov. 27, 1876. My dear Alec:

After all I have time enough for one more letter. We are travelling homeward on special train travelling only in the daytime and so not missing any of the beauties of this route.

Were you very much displeased at the last postscript in yesterday's letter. I hope not, we should not have gone if there had been any danger. We were perched up on seats in the windows so we could see right ahead. This morning at nine Mrs. and Mr. Towne and Uncle Sam and Aunt Sophie left us at Lathrop while we went on to Sacramento. I was real sorry to say goodbye to the three latter people. Aunt Sophie contributed her bottle of Zinfandel claret to my housewarming and Mr. Towne invited Sister "to come back and bring her sister and husband and he would chalk their heads for them" (a la chinee) Sister complains he invited you but not her husband. At Sacramento we staid two hours, Mr. Hills took us for a drive through the town. It is a country city, the houses mostly built of wood and generally small and plain, but there were several magnificent residences. All of any pretention had beautiful smooth shorn lawns and wide spreading fan leaf palms, orange trees or rose-bushes in bloom. The State capitol is a reduced copy of that at Washington, it is built of white granite, the dome is ornamented with delicate Renaissance has reliefs tracings. The rotunda under it occupies the center of the building, to the south of it on the first floor are 2 the governors and state secretaries rooms, at the east are the court rooms, at the north the secretary of the treasury room. The rotunda opens to the great door, at the west side. Up-stairs we went into the two Houses and into the library containing 45,000 books, and then down-stairs again into the treasury where they showed us the State money bags. They showed us one containing a thousand gold dollars, and made

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us try to lift it. Sister and Mrs. Fox utterly failed, the other ladies just managed it, and only two of the gentlemen could lift two of the bags. They showed us a big piece of paper, representing nine thousand dollars. When we came out the secretary gave us each an envelope containing a paper with his autograph and the great seal of state. We drove to Mr. Mills' house he is the brother of Ralston's successor, he had some fine orange trees with the fruit ripening and gave us carte blanche to pick them. We accordingly brought away a great number. Then an old clerk of Papa's hearing we were passing brought us some more and had ordered a box of strawberries, but they did not come in time. We have been passing through the lovely country around Cape Horn in the Sierra Nevada. I can hardly give you an idea of it, we are high up traveling along the side of the hills and look down into deep green valleys or opposite to continuous mountain chains of wooded hills, and white snow mountains rising abruptly over their heads in the distance. The picturesque valleys are alive with pretty white tents or log houses of the active, long-tailed, queer hatted Chinamon or black-haired motionless Indians. We are stopping at Blue Canon here for the night, the regular Overland train will pass us by soon and take on this letter and bring us some forwarded from San Francisco we hope. O I am longing so for letters from you 3 and Mamma. I hope you get mine regularly.

I do hate leaving this lovely warm country for the cold bleak winds of the East, but I do want to see you all still more. A man has just brought in a specimen of California maple, it is the most remarkable piece of wood I ever saw. One side is all rough, little hills with sharp points, yellow, the other side yellow with red shadows forming all sorts of fantastic shapes.

I don't approve of crossing, so goodnight.

With much love, your, Mabel. I hope you go to the Natural History see Cousin Sam very often. Somebody has just come with a pitcher of the finest water in this state. It is very nice

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with a metallic taste. The earth is remarkable for it's intense redness, it forms such a pretty contrast to the green of grass and trees.